REMARKS

Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for courtesies extended during the telephone interview on February 8, 2007, and for comments and suggestions regarding proposed amendments to certain claims in the subject application. During the interview, there was discussion of proposed amendments to further emphasize certain distinctive features of the claimed subject matter, such as a page data store that stores reference information that comprises descriptive information that is adjacent, or in proximity, to anchor text associated with a referencing uniform resource locator that references the page. Further, there was discussion regarding amendment of certain claims to clarify that the reference information associated with a page is obtained from another page. In addition, there was discussion regarding an output, comprising a page merged with its associated reference information, being provided to an index building component.

Claims 1-10, 12-18, and 22-29 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 12, 14-16, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, and 29 have been amended as shown on pages 2-6 of the Reply. Claims 11 and 19-21 are canceled herein. No new matter has been added and amendments made herein will not require a new search.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 19-21 Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 on the grounds that the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested in light of the cancellation of claims 19-21 herein, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-29 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kim, *et al.* (Pub. No. US 2002/0129014). This rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Kim, *et al.* does not disclose each and every element of the subject claims. Further, with regard to claims 11 and 19-21, the rejection of these claims should

be withdrawn in light of the cancellation of claims 11 and 19-21 herein, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

> For a prior art reference to anticipate, 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that "***each and every element*** as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *In re Robertson*, 169 F.3d 743, 745, 49 USPQ2d 1949, 1950 (Fed. Cir. 1999) (*quoting Verdegaal Bros., Inc. v. Union Oil Co.*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)) (emphasis added).

The claimed subject matter can facilitate page indexing by employing reference information associated with a particular page. More particularly, the claimed invention can store reference information associated with a page, and provide such information along with the page to, for example, an index building system. In one aspect, the subject invention can include a page index system having a page data store and a crawler component. The page data store can store reference information associated with a page. The reference information can include any information that refers to the page, such as, for example, information found in links (*e.g.*, anchor text) to the page that can be found in other pages, and/or descriptive information, such as word(s), sentence(s), and/or paragraph(s) referring or relating to the page, that can be found in proximity to links (*e.g.*, before or after the link) in the other pages. The crawler component can fetch the page and retrieve the reference information associated with the page from the page data store. The page and its associated reference information can then be merged and provided to an index building system. As a result, the page and associated reference information can be included in the index of words associated with the page with minimal machine cost.

In particular, amended independent claim 1 (and similarly independent claim 26), as amended, recites: ***a page data store that stores reference information associated with a page, the reference information is obtained from at least one other page, the reference information comprising descriptive information that is adjacent to anchor text associated with a referencing uniform resource locator that references the page***. Kim, *et al*. fails to disclose this distinctive feature of the claimed subject matter.

Rather, Kim, *et al.* discloses a search engine and a method to produce relevant results to keyword queries. The search engine includes a crawler that fetches pages from the web and stores the pages in a web page database. (*See* p. 2, ¶ [0023]). The crawler also sends the pages to a link extractor, which finds the outgoing links in the pages and sends the source and destination uniform resource locators (URLs) of the links to an URL management system. (*See* p. 2, ¶ [0024]). If a new URL is found, it is sent back to the crawler to be written into the web page database. (*See* p. 2, ¶ [0024]). The search engine also provides an indexing function wherein an indexer extracts the anchor text from the anchor text and link database, parses the keywords from the web page database, and generates an indexed database. (*See* p. 3, ¶ [0025]).

Unlike the claimed subject matter, Kim, *et al.* is silent regarding a page data store that stores reference information, comprising ***descriptive information that is adjacent to anchor text associated with a referencing uniform resource locator that references the page***, obtained from another page that refers and/or links to the page. Instead, Kim, *et al.* discloses extracting anchor text, found in a link to a page, from another page. (*See* p. 3, ¶ [0025]). Kim, *et al.* also discloses determining the rank (*e.g.*, for purposes of relevancy) of a page by determining whether a keyword appears in the anchor text of the other page. (*See* p. 3, ¶ [0033]). Kim, *et al.* further discloses that the ranker reviews the content of the other page to determine if and where the keyword appears in the other page, and then makes a ranking determination based on where and how often the keyword appears therein. (*See* p. 3, ¶¶ [0031]-[0033]). However, Kim, *et al.* does not disclose retrieving such content from the other page and storing such content in a page data store. (*See* p. 3, ¶ [0033]).

In contrast, the claimed subject matter can obtain reference information associated with a page from another page that has an URL that links the page. The reference information can include ***descriptive information*** that can be ***adjacent to anchor text***, where anchor text can be text that appears in the hyperlink that points or links to the page. Such descriptive information can be stored in a page data store. The reference information can be provided with the page to an index building component. As a result, the page and its associated reference information can be included in the index of words associated with the page.

Further, independent claim 15 (and similarly independent claims 8 and 22), as amended, recites: ***retrieving reference information associated with a page from at least one other page, the reference information comprising descriptive information that is in proximity to anchor text associated with a referencing uniform resource locator that references the page***. For reasons similar to those stated, *supra*, Kim, *et al*. fails to disclose such distinctive functionality. Rather, Kim, *et al*. discloses extracting anchor text, found in a link to a page, from another page. (*See* p. 3, ¶ [0025]).

The claimed subject matter can retrieve reference information associated with a page from another page that has a hyperlink to the page. The reference information can include ***descriptive information*** that can be ***in proximity to anchor text***, where anchor text can be text that appears in the hyperlink that points or links to the page. Such descriptive information can be stored in a page data store. The associated reference information can be merged with the page and provided to an index building component. As a result, the page and its associated reference information can be included in the index of words associated with the page.

Independent claim 1 additionally recites: ***a crawler component that . . . provides the page and the reference information to at least an index building component***. Kim, *et al*. does not disclose this distinctive aspect of the claimed subject matter.

Rather, Kim, *et al*. provides that an indexer extracts anchor text from the anchor text and link database, parses the keywords from the web page database, and generates an indexed database. (*See* p. 3, ¶ [0025]). The indexer stores keywords and associated URL identification numbers for retrieval. (*See* p. 3, ¶ [0025]). However, Kim, *et al*. does not disclose providing ***the page*** and associated ***reference information*** (*e.g.*, ***descriptive information***) retrieved from the other page, to the indexer. This is unlike the claimed subject matter, where the page and associated reference information (*e.g.*, descriptive information) can be provided to an index building component.

Moreover, independent claim 15 (and similarly independent claims 8, 22, and 26) additionally recites: ***providing an output comprising the page merged with the reference information associated with the page to at least an index building system***. Kim, *et al*. does not disclose this distinctive functionality of the claimed subject matter.

Rather, as stated, Kim, *et al*. provides that an indexer extracts anchor text from the

anchor text and link database, parses the keywords from the web page database, and generates an indexed database. (*See* p. 3, ¶ [0025]). The indexer stores the keywords and associated URL identification numbers for retrieval. (*See* p. 3, ¶ [0025]). Kim, *et al*. also discloses that the anchor text is analyzed by a ranker function which utilizes the anchor text to determine an anchor weight to be given to the link associated with the anchor text, so ultimately a relevance rank can be given to the page associated with the anchor text. (*See* p. 3, ¶¶ [0025]-[0026], [0028], [0033]). However, unlike the claimed invention, Kim, *et al*. fails to disclose that reference information (*e.g.*, descriptive information), associated with a page, is merged with the page and provided to an index building system. Accordingly, Kim, *et al*. does not teach a component that provides an output, comprising the page merged with the reference information associated with the page to an index building system.

In contrast, the claimed subject matter can include a component that provides an output to an index building system or component. The output can include ***a page merged with the reference information*** associated therewith, which can be retrieved from another page that contains a hyperlink to the page, for example. As a result, both the page and its associated reference information can be included in the index of words, so the words of the page and the associated reference information can be available to be examined when a query (*e.g.*, keyword search) is performed, for example.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is readily apparent that Kim, *et al*. does not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention, as recited in independent claims 1, 8, 15, 22, and 26 (and associated dependent claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16-18, 23-25, and 27-29). Accordingly, it is believed claims 1-10, 12-18, and 22-29 are in condition for allowance. Further, claims 11 and 19-21 have been canceled herein, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Therefore, the rejection of the subject claims should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063[MSFTP512US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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